WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL INVENTORY

107

COUNTY: York.

CLASS : Estate.

SMITH ESTATE (HYGEIA ESTATE).

This write-up is a part of the Virginia W. P. A. Historical Inventory Project, sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission under the direction of its Division of History. Credit to both the Commission and W. P. A. is requested for publication, in whole or in part. Unless otherwise stated, this information has not been checked for accuracy by the sponsor.

Research made by
Carrie Roberta Hawkins,
Messick, Virginia.

March 2, 1936.

40-107

1. SUBJECT:

Smith Estate (Hygeia Estate).

2. LOCATION:

Down a winding road off the main highway about 1-1/2 miles from the old Post Office and Poquoson Drug Company, Poquoson, Virginia.

3. DATE:

1854.

4. OWNERS:

R. H. Smith and Rosanna Smith his wife, 1854.
O. W. Smith,
Wallie Smith,
Miss Audrey Smith.

5. DESCRIPTION:

This estate is a plantation of many acres upon which is a dwelling house, with the old kitchen at the side torn away and a new one built at the rear of the house. Some out-buildings and a few old trees also remain. Woodwork in the dwelling, consisting of doors, baseboards and mantle pieces were hand-panelled and carved. The windows are diamond shaped and the floors are of wide boards, and are the original. There is an outside chimney.

6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This estate was owned first by Mr. R. H. Smith and his wife Rosanna. The house was built about 1854. All of the woodwork, such as carving and panelling was done by the slaves. Four generations have lived in this house; the first, R. H. Smith; the second, O. W. Smith; the third, Wallie Smith, and the fourth, Miss Audrey Smith. This plantation has been cultivated from the time Mr. R. H. Smith purchased it; by the different generations.

Mr. R. H. Smith ran a supply boat named "Pet", from Baltimore. In 1857, when he made one of his trips home from Baltimore, the river was frozen and he couldn't get the boat to the shore, so he had to walk across the ice to the shore to get his cart and oxen to carry the supplies to the house.

Mr. R. H. Smith served in the War Between the States, and during that time he was put in prison at Fort Monroe where he contracted tuberculosis and later died at his home.

7. MAP:

8. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Informant; Mrs. Emily Smith, Poquoson, Virginia.

Personal research.